

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the Office Action, Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in the instant application.

In response to the Examiner's objections to the claims, Claims 9 through 18 have been canceled and have been rewritten as new Claims 20 through 29, respectively. Claim 19 remains in the application and has been amended to correctly recite the word "statue".

In response to the Examiner's requirement that the recitation in prior Claims 9 through 18 conform to the specification, Applicant has replaced the terms "first" and "second" bayonet connector with either the terms "a bayonet connector" and "an additional bayonet connector" or "one" bayonet connector and an additional bayonet connector. Such phraseology is believed to be consistent with the specification and avoids the terms "first" and "second" to be in conflict with the terms first and second in the specification. Applicant has found it necessary to rewrite the claims with the terminology indicated above in view of the combinations of elements recited in Claims 20 and 27 since the use of the terms first and second in these claims with reference to the bayonet connectors would require reciting a "second" bayonet connector before reciting a "first" bayonet connector.

In all events Applicant verily believes that the claims presented with this amendment conform to the requirements of 35

Appl. Ser. No. 10/672,523
Amendment Dated June 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 30, 2004

U.S.C. 112 and that Claims 19 through 29, as now presented, are in condition for allowance.

Applicant also submits herewith three sheets of formal drawing as replacement sheets for the drawings originally filed in this application and requests that the replacement sheets be substituted for the drawings previously filed. The replacement sheets are believed to conform to the requirements for drawings in patent applications and are more easily read than the original drawings. No new matter has been introduced into the replacement sheets of drawings.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to advance the prosecution of this application by amending and rewriting claims to conform to the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, by providing replacement sheets of drawings which are more easily read and by pointing out herein with particularity the amendments proposed. An early Notice of Allowance of Claims 19 through 29 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/29/04

Michael E. Martin
Michael E. Martin
Registration No. 24,821
Agent for Applicant(s)

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP
1601 Elm Street, Suite 3000
Dallas, Texas 75201-4761
Phone (214) 999-3000
Fax (214) 999-3623

DALLAS 1421177v1